

THE MARYLAND HEALTH QUALITY AND COST COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BILL – HB165/SB175

Overview

The Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council was established in 2007 by Governor O'Malley through Executive Order. This legislation will establish the Council in law and expand the state's successful effort to bring public agencies and the private sector together to improve the quality and reduce the cost of health care in Maryland.

Since 2007, the Council implemented numerous successful initiatives in support of three primary goals:

1. Patient safety in hospitals

- Hospital Hand Hygiene Collaborative - Reducing healthcare-associated infections
- Blood Wastage Reduction Collaborative – Saving lives, saving dollars

2. Promotion of Primary Care via Patient Centered Medical Homes

- Legislation passed in 2010 – Demonstration program launched January 2011
- Over 60 practices across the State will participate, covering ~200,000 Marylanders

3. Wellness and Prevention for businesses and communities

- Healthiest Maryland Businesses - 106 businesses covering over 175,000 employees
- Healthiest Maryland Communities will launch by December 2011

The Bill

The bill codifies the Health Quality and Cost Council and establishes the members and goals:

- Fourteen members, one of which is the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Members to be appointed by the Governor.
- Majority of members represent the private sector, including health insurance carriers, employers, health care providers and consumers, and experts in health care quality and cost containment.

The Council will have the following charge:

- Make recommendations on health care quality and cost containment initiatives and priorities to the Governor, General Assembly and stakeholders.
- Coordinate and facilitate collaboration on health care quality improvement and cost containment initiatives.
- Develop strategies to improve quality and cost-effectiveness of care for individuals with, or at risk for, chronic disease.
- Support ongoing efforts to expand the use of health information technology.
- Explore strategies to reduce and eliminate health disparities.
- Leverage opportunities for initiatives and grant funding under the Affordable Care Act.
- Assess options and make recommendations regarding the dissemination of patient-centered outcomes research among health care providers.
- Submit a report annually to the Governor and General Assembly.